

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
CIVIL AIR PATROL
CONDOR COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONDOR COMPOSITE SQUADRON HOLDS THIRD ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The local unit of the United States Air Force Auxiliary based at Perry/Warsaw Airport, hosted its third annual awards ceremony Monday, November 17, 2003 at the United Church of Christ in Castile, New York.

The Condor Composite Squadron hosted the ceremony to honor cadet and senior members for their service in carrying out Civil Air Patrol's missions throughout 2003. The following awards were presented Monday evening:

Cadet Awardees:

Squadron Most Improved Cadet – C/Chief Master Sgt. Emily Wadsworth (Geneseo)
Lt. Colonel Watson Hartway Award for Excellence in Aerospace Education – C/2nd Lt. Valerie Marsh (Perry)
1Lt. Joel A. Souder Award for Excellence in Leadership - C/Senior Master Sgt. Joel Bouchard (Perry)
Cadet NCO of the Year to Finger Lakes Group - C/Chief Master Sgt. Joel Bouchard (Perry)
Cadet of the Year to Finger Lakes Group - C/Major Jonathan Fitch (Castile)
Squadron Cadet NCO of the Year - C/Senior Master Sgt. Adam Pope (Wyoming)
Squadron Cadet of the Year - C/Captain Adam King (Java)

Senior Awardees:

Squadron Most Improved Senior – 2nd Lt. Deborah Stearns (Warsaw)
Squadron and Group Public Affairs Officer - 1Lt. Scott Gardner (Warsaw)
Squadron and Group Safety Officer - 1Lt. Chris Pascuzzo (Retsof)
Squadron and Group Aerospace Education Officer - 1Lt. Don M. McKeown (Warsaw)
Senior of the Year to Finger Lakes Group - 1Lt. Don G. McKeown (Warsaw)
1t. Robert Sullivan Award for Squadron Senior of the Year - 1Lt. Don M. McKeown (Warsaw)

Special Awards included the Air Force Sergeant Association Award for 2002 to Cadet Major Jonathan Fitch and the Air Force Sergeant Association Award for 2003 to Cadet 2nd Lt. Valerie Marsh. Cadet Major Jonathan Fitch also received special recognition by receiving the Air Force Association Award for 2003.

Seven cadets and one senior member also received promotions during the award ceremony. Cadets received promotions ranging from Senior Airman to Senior Master Sergeant, including two who received the Wright Brothers Award, and senior member 2nd Lt. Deborah Stearns who was promoted to First Lieutenant.

Other notable awards included Cadet Captain Bradley McGinnis from Warsaw who received his Amelia Earhart Achievement Award and Cadet 2nd Lt. Valerie Marsh who received her General Billy Mitchell Achievement Award. Lieutenant Colonel William Hughes, NY Wing Director of Emergency Services, presented the awards as a representative of the New York Wing commander.

(Continued)

(Page Two)

Cadets presented Blue Star Flags to parents and guests who have family members in the armed forces. The Squadron honored the families following the tradition dating back to WWII. The Blue Star Flag hung in a window represents a child or other family member serving in the armed forces.

The Squadron hosted a dessert reception following the presentations for nearly fifty family members and guests in attendance. First Lieutenant Scott Gardner served as Master of Ceremonies for the event, joined by Squadron Commander Captain Charles Miller in presenting the awards.

The official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, the Civil Air Patrol, is a nonprofit organization with more than 63,000 members nationwide. It performs 95% of continental U.S. search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the almost 27,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. On the Web visit: www.cap.gov

-31-

(18 NOV 03)

**Media Contact: Scott Gardner, 1Lt., CAP
Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (585) 786-8734**